

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

45. (Currently Amended) A color-changing matrix comprising a layer including a mixture of a water-insoluble polymer, an undissolved water-soluble polymer, and a water-leachable colorant that leaches from the matrix when the matrix is exposed to water to provide a change in color.

46. (Previously Presented) The color-changing matrix of claim 45 wherein the water-soluble polymer comprises polyethylene oxide.

47. (Previously Presented) The color-changing matrix of claim 46 wherein said water-insoluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of polystyrenes, polyurethanes, ethylene vinyl acetate polymers, polyethylenes, styrene/rubber polymers, and ethylene/propylene polymers.

48. (Previously Presented) The color-changing matrix of claim 45, 46 or 47 wherein the layer additionally comprising an antimicrobial agent.

49. (Previously Presented) The color-changing matrix of claim 48 adapted to leach colorant corresponding with the depletion of said antimicrobial agent.

50. (Previously Presented) A method of indicating wear comprising providing a color-changing matrix according to claim 45, and repeatedly contacting said matrix with water to cause said matrix to change color.

51. (Previously Presented) The color-changing matrix of claim 45 wherein the layer includes over 50% of the water-insoluble polymer by weight.

52. (Previously Presented) The color-changing matrix of claim 45 wherein the water-insoluble polymer comprises a polystyrene.

53 (New) A color-changing matrix comprising a layer including a mixture of a water-insoluble polymer, a water-soluble homopolymer of polyethylene oxide, and a water-leachable colorant that leaches from the matrix when the matrix is exposed to water to provide a change in color.

54. (New) The color-changing matrix of claim 53 wherein said water-insoluble polymer is selected from the group consisting of polystyrenes, polyurethanes, ethylene vinyl acetate polymers, polyethylenes, styrene/rubber polymers, and ethylene/propylene polymers.

55. (New) The color-changing matrix of claim 53 wherein the layer additionally comprising an antimicrobial agent.

56. (New) The color-changing matrix of claim 53 adapted to leach colorant corresponding with the depletion of said antimicrobial agent.

57. (New) A method of indicating wear comprising providing a color-changing matrix according to claim 53, and repeatedly contacting said matrix with water to cause said matrix to change color.

58. (New) The color-changing matrix of claim 53 wherein the layer includes over 50% of the polyoxyethylene oxide by weight.

59. (New) The color-changing matrix of claim 53 wherein the water-insoluble polymer comprises a polystyrene.